

HOLYOKE

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HCC, Elevate Northeast partner

Two-day core program for cannabis careers to be held virtually over Zoom

By The Republican Newsroom

Holyoke Community College and its new community partner, Elevate Northeast, are launching a revitalized cannabis careers training program next month.

The program, offered through the Cannabis Education Center, begins the weekend of Oct. 17 and 18 with two days of required core curriculum training over Zoom.

Each day will be broken down into two sessions, 9 a.m. to noon, and 1 to 4 p.m. Each session will include presentations

from cannabis industry experts followed by a question and answer period.

Students who complete the core training will then be eligible to register for spring semester classes in one of four cannabis industry career tracks: cultivation assistant; extraction technician; patient services associate; and culinary assistant.

"HCC is proud to partner with Elevate to help job seekers get the training they need to successfully enter the cannabis industry," said Jeffrey Hayden, the college's vice president of business and community services. "At the same time, we look forward to enhancing and expanding our relationships with cannabis companies in Holyoke and other communities throughout the re-

gion. Our goal is to help individuals gain employment while meeting the demand of area businesses."

A previous series of cannabis industry training courses offered by HCC and the Cannabis Education Center was suspended in the spring due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dates for the spring career track training sessions have not yet been announced.

Cultivation assistants provide the daily care of the crops from seed to harvest and may be involved in cracking seeds, soil mixing, potting, defoliation, watering, pest control and trimming.

Extraction technicians work in labs assisting production managers in all

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An instructor demonstrates how to make cookie batter using cannabidiol (CBD oil) extracted from hemp during a cannabis culinary assistant training program at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute earlier this year.

31 accolades, eight of which were first-place wins, in Casino Player Magazine's "Best of Gaming 2020," including "Best Overall Gaming Resort," "Favorite Casino Resort to Vacation at" and more.

Through an extensive survey, Casino Player Magazine's readers selected which casinos across the United States are worthy of being crowned the best in an expanding sea of gambling options.

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Partner

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aspects of extraction, purging, oil manipulation, winterization, distillation, solvent recovery, and quality control.

Patient service associates work behind the counters at cannabis dispensaries, interacting with the public, answering technical questions, and providing information to registered cannabis patients, caregivers, and recreational customers making purchases.

Culinary assistants are responsible for preparing cannabis or cannabidiol-infused products using a variety of cooking, baking, and infusion techniques.

The cost of the two-day core training session is \$595.

Elevate Northeast is a Massachusetts-based, women-founded 501(c)(3) nonprofit, created to support the Northeast U.S.'s growing cannabis industry through workforce training, education and advocacy.

The Cannabis Education Center is based in the college's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development.

To register for core cannabis curriculum class, go online to hcc.edu/cannabis-core

More information on these and other upcoming classes and programs can be found on the Cannabis Education Center's website, cannabiseducationcenter.org, or by calling 413-552-2320.